

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A DNA oligomer capable of hybridizing in full-length under high stringency conditions to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 16-912 of SEQ ID NO:1 and nucleotides 97-912 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the high stringency hybridization conditions are overnight hybridization at about 68 °C in 6X SSC and a wash in 6X SSC at room temperature, followed with a wash at 68 °C first in 6X SSC and then in 0.6X SSC.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A DNA oligomer consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 16-912 of SEQ ID NO:1 and nucleotides 97-912 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto.

22. (Previously presented) A DNA oligomer capable of hybridizing in full-length under high stringency conditions to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 16-912 of SEQ ID NO:1 and nucleotides 97-912 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the high stringency hybridization conditions are overnight hybridization at about 68 °C in 6X SSC and a wash in 6X SSC at room temperature, followed with a wash at 68 °C first in 6X SSC and then in 0.6X SSC.

23. (New) The DNA oligomer of Claim 18, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

24. (New) The DNA oligomer of Claim 19, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

25. (New) The DNA oligomer of Claim 20, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

26. (New) The DNA oligomer of Claim 23, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 has at least 95% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

27. (New) The DNA oligomer of Claim 24, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 has at least 95% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

28. (New) The DNA oligomer of Claim 25, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 has at least 95% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

29. (New) The DNA oligomer of Claim 23, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 has at least 99% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

30. (New) The DNA oligomer of Claim 24, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 has at least 99% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.

31. (New) The DNA oligomer of Claim 25, wherein the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 has at least 99% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid residues 28-299 of SEQ ID NO:3.